



Police Department

Nannette H. Hegerty  
Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: APRIL 21, 2005  
NEWS RELEASE # 05-27

CONTACT: ANNE E. SCHWARTZ  
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER  
414-935-7209

## HOMICIDE REVIEW COMMISSION SEEKS TO STEM TIDE OF VIOLENT DEATH

A recent spate of homicides in the City of Milwaukee has heightened the importance of a groundbreaking new commission established to better understand the nature of homicide and to develop solutions to lethal violence this city.

The Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary, multi-level group set up to examine homicides and to search for possible solutions to violence. Those involved in the review process include law enforcement, criminal justice and public health professionals and members of community-based organizations. The input of all these groups will help develop innovative violence prevention responses.

In addition to understanding the nature of homicide through analysis, the commission seeks to develop innovative responses to the problem of homicide and to strategically focus limited enforcement and intervention activities on identifiable risks. The commission will examine the homicides for possible trends such as household composition, gang involvement, drug use, school attendance and whether Child Protective Services had ever been involved in the home life of either victim or perpetrator.

"This marks the first time in this country that homicides will be examined in this fashion," said Dr. Mallory O'Brien, project coordinator from the Harvard School of Public Health. O'Brien is acting as a consultant to the City of Milwaukee. "By getting information on homicides that hasn't been put together before, we can play a role in reducing violent deaths," she said.

"We want to get at the root of the causes of the homicides in the City of Milwaukee and the Homicide Review Commission is a strong tool at our disposal to help us toward that end," said Milwaukee Police Chief Nannette Hegerty. "We recently have seen cases of innocent victims of violence in our streets and we want to do everything we can to stem the tide of this activity."

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett added, "We have got to come together as a community and address these horrific, senseless acts of violence. The Homicide Review Commission will afford us the opportunity to look at reducing homicides more strategically and with more community participation."

Project funding comes from the Wisconsin Partnership Fund for a Healthy Future at the University of Wisconsin Medical School, the U.S. Department of Justice Safe Neighborhoods Campaign, and the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance.

# # #